

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for picking up and comminuting clippings in a mowing unit (10) used for taking care of lawns and fields, ~~whereby~~ wherein the mowing unit (10) comprises at least one mowing assembly ~~consisting of~~ comprising at least one mowing aggregate (20) having cutters and a rotating axle, ~~characterized in that the device has further comprising a chopping device (30) chopper~~ for sucking in and comminuting clippings produced by ~~at least one~~ the mowing aggregate (20), and for feeding the comminuted clippings to a discharge device (80), ~~whereby the chopper having a rotating axle (50) of the chopping device (30) is disposed~~ at an angle relative to the rotating axle (21) of the mowing aggregate (20).

2. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the angle between the rotating axle (50) of the chopping device (30) chopper and the rotating axle (21) of the mowing aggregate (20) ranges from 60° to 90°.

3. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or both of Claims~~ Claim 1 and 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~chopping device (30) chopper~~ is arranged above at least one mowing aggregate (20).

4. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the mowing unit (10) encompasses at least one motor-driven tractor ~~comprises (10)~~ and two mowing assemblies, ~~whereby~~ wherein the mowing assemblies are ~~connected~~ pivotally connected to the tractor by ~~means of~~ at least one horizontal axle.

5. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 4, characterized in ~~that the~~ wherein a plurality of mowing assemblies are arranged in a V-formation on the front of a tractor (10).

6. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or both of Claims~~ Claim 4 and 5, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the mowing assemblies arranged in a V-formation can pivot around an axle that is perpendicular to the ground surface to be mowed.

7. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or both of Claims~~ Claim 5 and 6, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein a mowing assembly ~~consists of~~ comprises at least two mowing aggregates (20) that rotate ~~inwards~~ inwardly in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the tractor (10) and the ~~chopping device (30)~~ chopper extends over at least the two mowing aggregates that are closest to the tractor.

8. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, comprising a plurality of chopping elements which rotate around the axle (50) of the ~~chopping device (30) around which several chopping means (40) rotate extend~~ chopper, said axle extending inside a housing (60) that is open ~~towards the~~ toward one side of the mowing aggregate (20) so that it can pick up the clippings (120) while, on the opposite side of the mowing aggregate, there is a discharge opening that is connected to a discharge device (80).

9. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 8, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the discharge opening is funnel-shaped-like a funnel.

10. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 8, wherein different discharge directions of the discharge device (80) can be selected.

11. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 10, characterized in that wherein the discharge device (80) ~~consists of~~ comprises a first chute that is rigidly attached to the ~~chopping device (30)~~ chopper, whereby the first chute is followed by a slewing gear (81) that is connected to a second chute (82), whereby the second chute can be turned by means of the slewing gear.

12. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 11, characterized in that there is comprising at least one adjustable flap (83) at ~~the~~ an end of the second chute (82) for purposes of regulating the direction and range of the discharge.

13. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of Claims~~ Claim 8 to 12, characterized in that wherein the height of the discharge device (80) can be adjusted.

14. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that,~~ Claim 1, comprising at least one cover above each of the mowing assemblies, ~~there is at least one~~ said cover (70) ~~which has~~ having an outer rim (71) on ~~the~~ a side of the tractor and which is open in the forward direction.

15. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 14, characterized in that wherein the cover (70) is positioned at a certain distance from ~~the cutting means (22)~~

cutters of the mowing aggregates at which distance the clippings (120) are only slightly squashed under the cover.

16. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 15, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the distance between the cover (70) and the ~~cutting means (22)~~ cutters ranges from 10 cm to 55 cm.

17. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of Claims Claim 14 to 16, characterized in that wherein~~ the cover (70) has a cutout in the area of the chopping device (30).

18. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of Claims Claim 14 and 17, characterized in that wherein~~ the cover (70) and the housing (60) of the ~~chopping device (30)~~ chopper are ~~designed as~~ a single piece.

19. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the tractor (10) is driven by an engine (90) and by a main drive shaft (100).

20. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the mowing aggregate (20) is driven by the drive shaft (100).

21. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or both of Claims Claim 19 and 20, characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~chopping device (30)~~ chopper is driven by the drive shaft (100).

22. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the mowing assemblies and the chopping device ~~(30) choppers~~ are driven by V-belts.

23. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein different degrees of comminution can be selected for the chopping device ~~(30) chopper~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding~~ claims, ~~characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the mowing aggregates (20) have several blades (22) detachably affixed to the ends of each of the a plurality of legs of a star-shaped carrier element (24), ~~whereby this~~ wherein the carrier element rotates around ~~an~~ the rotating axle (21).

25. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding~~ claims, ~~characterized in that,~~ of Claim 1, wherein in the area of the rotating axle (21), the mowing aggregates (20) have additional rotation elements (25) with which the clippings (120) are made to rotate and transported to the middle of the vehicle.

26. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rotation elements (25) are formed by a drum with wings.

27. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rotation elements (25) are formed by a drum with a rotating screw.

28. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the mowing unit (10) has a conveying device ~~(130) conveyor~~ into which the clippings are discharged, whereby the ~~conveying device (130) conveyor~~ transports the clippings to a collecting container (110).

29. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 28, characterized in that wherein the ~~conveying device (130) consists of~~ conveyor comprises a chute in which the clippings are transported by means of a conveying screw (131).

30. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 29, characterized in that wherein the chute of the ~~conveying device (130) conveyor~~ is ~~designed as~~ a sieve that is open towards ~~the~~ its top.

31. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the mowing unit (10) has a collecting container (110) of which at least one side wall can flip open towards the outside.

32. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 31, characterized in that wherein at least one of the side wall and/or the bottom of the collecting container (110) is ~~designed as~~ an endless floor (111) so that the container can be emptied.

33. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the height of the mowing aggregates (20) can be varied independently of each other.

34. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of Claim 1, wherein the height of each of the mowing aggregates (20) is set by means of a height guide (26) located in the middle, underneath the aggregate.

35. (Currently Amended) The device ~~according to~~ of Claim 34, characterized in that wherein the height guide (26) is ~~in the form of~~ a tube that encircles the ~~appertaining~~ rotating axle (21) of the mowing aggregate (20) and it has at least one ~~caster, roller, rail, ball or other~~ guide element.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for mowing and picking up clippings by means of a mowing unit, ~~whereby the mowing unit that~~ has a ~~chopping device~~ chopper, characterized by comprising the following steps of:

- cutting of the plants ~~are cut off by cutting means (22)~~ a cutter of at least one mowing aggregate (20),
- sucking in, comminuting, and releasing the clippings ~~are sucked in by a chopping device (30), comminuted there and subsequently released~~ chopper in the vicinity of the mowing unit; and
- picking up and conveying the clippings, after drying in the vicinity, ~~the clippings are picked up by the chopping device (30) and conveyed to a collecting means~~ collector.

37. (New) The device of Claim 34, wherein the guide element is selected from the group consisting of casters, rollers, rails, and balls.